

SENATOR LANDIS: Right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, just as a matter of philosophy, why, at that point in time, does the public counsel conduct this investigation on its own rather than, say for example, recommend to the Legislature that they consider a formal investigation? I guess, speaking quite frankly, the Executive Board had before it, at an earlier point in time this year, a bill from Senator Pappas that in some ways suggested the setting up of a very similar kind of investigating committee. Now it was more internal to the Legislature, and structured a little differently. But I'm wondering...there were reservations about that. I'm wondering why it is advisable to us to set into motion, with formal investigative powers, an agency without any particular oversight as to the extent to which those powers are going to be exercised in a particular instance. I mean I can see the public counsel's office getting involved in some real hairy situations on the basis of this particular procedure. I am wondering, does it make any sense to have them simply go to the probably cause stage and turn over to the Legislature, in the form of a recommendation for formal investigation, proceeding beyond that point?

SENATOR LANDIS: Let me respond that first the public counsel is our employee, and for that reason I think we do have some oversight. But, secondly, the kinds of problems that I've been...that have been brought to me is an employee will come and say, Dave, listen, there is kind of a common practice out in our shop that the boss seems to be taking the state car home and I've seen it out in front of his house on weekends. Well, when we have had those...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. When we have had those kind of situations, that is not...I don't envision turning that kind of thing over to the Legislature for fact finding. It seems to me that public counsel is the appropriate agency to handle those kinds of situations. Should we be talking about some large-scale act of fraudulent mismanagement, I would have no difficulty with the public counsel making a preliminary report to, say, the Executive Board. But in talking to employees, in talking to the public counsel, we anticipate that the majority of the kind of workload that we are talking about here is of minor significance. Practices